

PRACTICES EXCHANGE

NEWSLETTER

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<https://yeswemustcoalition.org>

Issue 46

This year the Practices Exchange Newsletter is dedicated with appreciation and admiration to the memory of Dr. Nia Lane Chester, the newsletter's founding editor and program manager of the Yes We Must Coalition.

Higher Education in These Times In order to provide a forum for YWMC members to share strategies and raise questions with one another during these uncertain times, the Yes We Must Coalition will continue the Open Forums begun last year. Each month we will offer a general session, open to anyone at a member school. Information regarding links to these sessions is sent out via the email lists for YWMC Google Groups. We welcome all members who wish to join the conversation.

Growing the Coalition If you know a school that should be a member of the Yes We Must Coalition, please connect us with them. Growing numbers make us stronger in the work we do together and the voice we raise on behalf of low-income students. Please get in touch with Gloria Nemerowicz, President, at glorianemerowicz@yeswemustcoalition.org.

YWMC MEMBER SHOWCASE: Guilford College



Guilford College, located in Greensboro, NC, is the only Quaker-rooted, liberal arts college in the southeastern United States. First established as New Garden Boarding School in 1837, the College was founded by the Religious Society of Friends, whose principles of community, diversity, equality, excellence, integrity, justice and stewardship are still reflected in the collective experience of our students, faculty and staff across the campus and in every classroom. Guilford joined the Yes We Must Coalition in 2018.

Guilford is the fourth oldest degree-granting institution in North Carolina and the first in the state to have a coed class. The College's scenic campus has trees dating back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Abolitionists aided enslaved Africans by guiding them through the woods on Guilford's grounds towards their freedom. Because Guilford played this significant role in the Underground Railroad, it is one of very few colleges listed as a National Historic District by the U.S. Department of the Interior.



Guilford is test-optional for application and prides itself on a robust and inclusive campus experience. The College has an enrollment of just under 1500 students from around the world, including traditional, transfer, adult and Early College students. Students frequently share meals with students from half-a-dozen different faiths and may be in classes with students who are twice their age.

The College is a vibrant and diverse academic community that delivers education on a personal level. The average class size is 17 students, and the student-to-faculty ratio is 13:1. Students have no trouble building relationships with professors, who know them by their first names. Guilfordians, as our students are known, enjoy a balanced academic schedule with experiential learning.

Academic programs include more than 40 undergraduate majors in social sciences, history, the arts, languages, literature, mathematics and the natural sciences. Recently the College added majors in sustainable food systems, experience design, public health and—new in 2021—analytics. The College also offers a graduate school that includes master’s programs in business administration, international sports management, and criminal justice. Through the Greater Greensboro Consortium, Guilford students can take courses at seven other nearby institutions. The Wiser Justice Program provides incarcerated individuals the opportunity to earn college credits by taking courses taught by Guilford professors.

Helping others and developing leadership skills are essential parts of the Guilford experience. Students find meaningful ways to give back, including mentoring at-risk children, collecting coats for a homeless shelter and harvesting food for the Greensboro community by volunteering at our award-winning farm. Guilford’s three-acre working farm raises more than 10,000 pounds of produce each year for the college’s cafeteria and community and was voted one of the nation’s “Top 30 sustainable college-run farms” by College Values online.

The College offers nearly three dozen clubs and organizations as well as an athletic program of 20 NCAA Division III sports.

What defines Guilford’s students and faculty? Above all and in accordance with Quaker philosophy, it’s an unshakable belief that within each of us is a Light waiting to be discovered. In addition, there’s determination to tackle challenges and pursue progress with conviction that together we can create a world of good.

Guilford College is one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduates, according to *The Princeton Review* and has been in the book *Colleges That Change Lives* since its original publication. For more information, please contact Ty Buckner, Interim Vice President for Communications & Marketing, at rbuckner@guilford.edu.

Institutional Resources/Practices

Lowering Financial Barriers for More Promising Students

Augsburg University, located in the heart of Minneapolis, educates students to be informed citizens, thoughtful stewards, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders. The Augsburg experience is supported by an engaged community that is committed to intentional diversity in its life and work. Among an undergraduate population of 2,300 in fall 2021, 58% are students of color and 51% are first-generation college students.

“One of our commitments at Augsburg is to bring an equity lens to affordability,” says Augsburg President Paul C. Pribbenow. In addition to merit scholarships that recognize academic achievement and leadership potential, the university provides significant financial support to incoming first-year and transfer students who have participated in college readiness programs such as College Possible, TRIO, or AVID. Augsburg’s Multicultural Life Scholarships also provide a range of opportunities to returning students of American Indian, Latinx, Pan-Afrikan, and Pan-Asian descent, LGBTQIA+ students, and students who have participated in or demonstrated leadership potential within these communities. Overall, 97% of Augsburg undergraduates receive some form of financial aid.

The university’s enrollment management division works to create initiatives that are economically sustainable for Augsburg and that help to close the gaps from systems of the past. Two recently launched programs build on this foundation, signaling a welcome to potential students who otherwise might not have the means or opportunity to consider Augsburg.

The Full Tuition Scholars Program, announced in 2021, acknowledges strong academic success and is designed to make Augsburg affordable for Minnesota residents who are Pell Grant-eligible and have a cumulative unweighted high school GPA of 3.50. Scholar recipients receive the total cost of tuition and standard fees through a combination of Augsburg scholarships and federal and state grants. In this first year of the program, 77 applicants have met the merit and need-based criteria for the scholarship, and 11 have committed to Augsburg for fall 2022.

The American Indian Recognition Full Tuition Program, announced this semester, aims to support and promote the importance of American Indian students on campus. Native students currently make up about 3% of Augsburg undergraduates. Minneapolis is home to a large and tribally diverse American Indian population, with a thriving cultural corridor located close to Augsburg's campus. Conversations with current American Indian students at Augsburg played a key role in guiding the new program's development. Unlike many public institutions, Augsburg's program does not limit eligibility to American Indian students who live in the state. The program defines "American Indian" as an enrolled member of any federally recognized American Indian tribe, Alaskan Native Village, or Canadian First Nation, or a direct descendent (child or grandchild) of an enrolled or tribally verified member. While there are no specific enrollment goals tied to the program, the university expects that it will increase American Indian enrollment, particularly from outside of Minnesota. "The systemic injustices that have limited access to higher education for many American Indian students need structural solutions. This program is one step that we as an institution can take," says Joanne Reeck, Augsburg's vice president for equity and inclusion. While several states have enacted laws providing financial aid to American Indian students, we believe this program is one of the first of its kind among private U.S. colleges and universities.

Both initiatives have been folded into Augsburg's institutional approach to awarding financial aid and will be a priority for fundraising from alumni and supporters. For more information about either program, contact Robert Gould, vice president for strategic enrollment management, at gouldr2@augsborg.edu.

Submissions for Future Issues

YWMC members are encouraged to submit examples of policies, practices and/or resources that you have found to be effective in promoting student success and that you would like to share with your YWMC colleagues. We are particularly interested in examples of how members are addressing issues of social and racial justice. Send ideas for the newsletter to Barbara Kirby, Operations Manager, barbara@yeswemustcoalition.org.